

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 119

Introduced by Assembly Member Runner
(Principal coauthor: Senator Knight)

September 13, 2001

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 119—Relative to the
Aerospace Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 119, as amended, Runner. Aerospace Highway.

This measure would dedicate a specified portion of State Highway 14 as the "Aerospace Highway." This measure also would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing that special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect appropriate plaques and markers.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, The aerospace industry is a major economic and
2 social force in America, employing approximately 900,000
3 people; and
4 WHEREAS, California has been a leader in the aerospace
5 industry; and
6 WHEREAS, Edwards Air Force Base, the home of the Air
7 Force Flight Test Center (AFFTC), has served the aerospace world
8 for more than 50 years, from America's first jet airplane to the
9 landings of the space shuttle; and

1 WHEREAS, Numerous milestones in flight have taken place at
2 the AFFTC in its 50-year history, including the following: Air
3 Force Captain Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager piloting the
4 rocket-powered Bell X-1 became the first man to penetrate the
5 so-called “sound barrier” in 1947, and in 1949, he completed the
6 first, and to this day, only ground takeoff of an experimental rocket
7 plane in the Bell X-1; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 150 confirmed “first flights” have
9 taken off, from Edwards Air Force Base, and this list represents a
10 conservative compilation of confirmed first flights of new
11 experimental and prototype air vehicles; and

12 WHEREAS, The XB-70, conceived in the 1950s as a
13 high-altitude bomber that could fly three times the speed of sound
14 (Mach 3) and considered one of the world’s most exotic airplanes,
15 was used as a research aircraft for the advanced study of
16 aerodynamics, propulsion, and other subjects related to large
17 supersonic aircraft; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1953, Jacqueline Cochran, flying a
19 Canadian-built (Canadair) F-86 Sabre, became the first woman to
20 exceed the speed of sound and established a new women’s absolute
21 speed record of 652.337 mph over a low-level course at Edwards
22 Air Force Base; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1953, the prototype North American YF-100A
24 Super Sabre became the first aircraft in history to fly supersonic
25 in level flight on its maiden flight from Edwards Air Force Base;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, In 1954, test pilot Major Arthur “Kit” Murray
28 piloted the Bell X-1A to a new altitude record of 90,440 feet and
29 became the first man to actually see the curvature of the earth; and

30 WHEREAS, In 1958, test pilot Captain Walter Irwin set a new
31 official world absolute speed record when he piloted a Lockheed
32 F-104A Starfighter to an average speed of 1,404.09 mph; and

33 WHEREAS, In 1959, with test pilot Major Joe Jordan at the
34 controls, a Lockheed F-104C became the first jet-powered
35 (air-breathing) aircraft to climb above 100,000 feet; and

36 WHEREAS, In 1962, Major Bob White became the first man
37 to fly an airplane above 300,000 feet, to 314,750 feet, and the first
38 to fly an airplane in near space (above 50 miles) and was the first
39 of eight X-15 test pilots at Edwards Air Force Base to earn their
40 astronaut’s wings by flying an airplane above 50 miles; and



1 WHEREAS, In 1967, *Air Force* test pilot Major William J.
2 “Pete” Knight piloted the modified X-15A-2 to a speed of Mach
3 6.7 (4,520 mph) and thereby recorded the fastest speed anyone has
4 ever flown in an airplane; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1976, Air Force Captain Eldon Joersz set a new
6 official world absolute speed record when he piloted a Lockheed
7 SR-71A to an average speed of 2,193.64 mph at Edwards Air
8 Force Base; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1977, the nonorbiting Space Shuttle Enterprise
10 demonstrated the soundness of the shuttle design and confirmed
11 the approach and landing techniques after being launched from a
12 747 and landing on Rogers Dry Lake 5 minutes and 21 seconds
13 later; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1979, at a remote location, test pilot Lieutenant
15 Colonel N.K. “Ken” Dyson completed the final flight of
16 Lockheed’s classified Have Blue low-observables concept
17 demonstrator flight test program, and convincingly demonstrated
18 low observability against a wide array of the most sophisticated
19 air- and ground-based air defense systems, and the successful
20 conduct of these tests led to the development of the F-117A
21 Nighthawk in the early 1980s and the stealth revolution began in
22 earnest; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1981, the Space Shuttle Columbia landed safely
24 on Rogers Dry Lake following its first orbital mission, and marked
25 the first time in history an orbital vehicle had left earth under
26 rocket power and returned on the wings of an aircraft; and

27 WHEREAS, In 1986, Dick Rutan and Jeanna Yeager piloted the
28 experimental Voyager, and nine days, three minutes and 44
29 seconds after taking off from Edwards Air Force Base, the aircraft
30 touched down on Rogers Dry Lake after completing the first-ever
31 nonstop, unrefueled flight around the world; and

32 WHEREAS, Given the importance of the aerospace industry to
33 our nation and the significant contribution of the AFFTC at
34 Edwards Air Force Base to the Department of Defense and the
35 State of California, it would be a fitting tribute to name a portion
36 of State Highway 14 near Edwards Air Force Base as the
37 Aerospace Highway; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *concurring*, That the Legislature hereby dedicates the portion of
40 State Highway 14, from the Pearblossom Highway to ~~the Kern~~

1 ~~County line~~ *State Highway 395*, as the Aerospace Highway; and
2 be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested to
4 determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent
5 with the signing requirements for the state highway system,
6 showing this special designation, and upon receiving donations
7 from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those
8 plaques and markers; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
10 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
11 author for appropriate distribution.

